

The Bondage of Freedom

Text : **Luke 9: 18-26 ; Matthew 10: 32-39**

S#1.

A. After lessons addressing the evils of prejudice and judging we observed that God requires believers to confront sin.

1. To speak out against evil is not considered "Politically Correct." (PC)
2. However, we are not given the option to retreat into our secure bubble.

Ezek. 3: 18 – When I say to the wicked, 'You will surely die,' and you do not warn him or speak out to warn the wicked from his wicked way that he may live, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand.

S#2.

3. Jesus gave Christians the responsibility to be lights in a very dark world.

a. **Matt. 5: 16** – Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

S#3.

b. Even a small light appears bright in a dark place.

4. The darker the world becomes, the more glaring the differences become and the more resentful the world will become of those who are light.

a. **John 3: 20** – For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. **21** But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

b. Even if shining forth the light brings opposition, we must not be intimidated.

I Pet. 3: 14 – But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled, **15** but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

S#4.

5. The greater the darkness, the greater the need and the opportunity for light.

Col. 4: 5 – Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. **6** Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

S#5.

B. Our last lesson reassured us that our relationship with God did not depend on a system of rules keeps ... we are not saved by works.

1. God will save us **FROM** our sins, but He will not save us **IN** our sins.

a. Repentance is essential to salvation.

Acts 3: 19 – Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;

S#6.

- b. Everyone sins, but sin cannot be the Christians manor of life.

Heb. 10:26 – For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries.

- 2. In Christ one is freed from the law of sin and death, i.e., all legal systems.

- a. Legal systems require obedience to maintain relationship.

- b. **Rom. 8: 1** – Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

S#7.

- c. *It is like the difference between dating and being married. If you are married and you forget her birthday, she may put you through some un-pleasantries, but if you are dating, you may well become one of her fading memories.*

- 3. In Christ we are “standing in a state of having been saved by grace through faith.”

Eph. 2: 8 – For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

S#8.

C. In America today most people will say they believe in Jesus and most of them claim to be Christians.

- 1. This is inconsistent with the teachings of Jesus.

- a. **Matt. 7: 13** – Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. ¹⁴ For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

S#9.

- b. **Luke 18: 24** – And Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

S#10.

- 2. Those who are saved are saved on the basis of imputed righteousness.

Phil. 3: 9 – ... so that I may gain Christ, ⁹ and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,

S#11.

D. We can see that the scriptures clearly teach that one's acceptance by God is totally based on faith, but what is faith, its more than simple belief.

S#12.

- 1. In our text for this lesson Jesus clearly delineated the faith that He requires.

- 2. This will be the topic of our discussion in this lesson.

Luke 9: 23 – And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me

I. Jesus establishes this as a condition for acceptance as His disciple.**S#13.****A. “IF” ... Jesus starts this section with a conditional sentence.**

1. In the original Language there are three classes of conditional sentences.
 - a. 1st Class – I might and I will
 - b. 2nd Class – I might, but I won’t
 - c. 3rd Class – I might and I may or may not
2. “come” is in the subjunctive mood. (*conditional*)
 - a. The subjunctive mood primarily refers to a *hypothetical*.
 - b. Thus, this is a 3rd class conditional sentence.

B. Thus, Jesus is here setting conditions for one becoming a disciple of His.

1. Many come to Jesus, but stop short of becoming a disciple ... accepting salvation.
2. Even today, many believe but are unwilling to pay the cost of discipleship.

C. A good example of this is the story we know as being of “The Rich Young Ruler.”

1. **Luke 18: 18** – A ruler questioned Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" **19** And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. **20** "You know the commandments, 'do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not bear false witness, honor your father and mother.'" **21** And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth." **22** When Jesus heard this, He said to him, "One thing you still lack; sell all that you possess and distribute it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." **23** But when he had heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich. **24** And Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!
2. Jesus indicated that one must make a total commitment to Him above all else.
3. This was too high a cost ... the ruler was unwilling to pay it.

S#14.**II. Jesus refuses to take second place in anyone’s life.****S#15.****A. Jesus requires we value Him even above ourselves.****S#16.**

1. **Luke 9:23** – And He was saying to them all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, ...”
2. Jesus requires that his followers be “ALL IN” in their commitment to Him.
3. Those who will form a relationship with Him, must be as committed as He is.

B. When one forms a relationship with Christ it is like a marriage.**S#17.**

1. **II Cor. 11: 2** – For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin.
2. The problem is that more people want to cohabit with God than want to marry.
 - a. They come to the relationship for what they can get out of it ... salvation.
 - b. They are not willing to put into it the devoted service God expects in return.
3. Guys more often than not try to talk the girl into just cohabiting.
 - a. Get all the perks of marriage without the commitment.
 - b. Vows : I'll stay with you as long as it's good for me.
If you catch a cold, I'll run to the pharmacy for you,
BUT if you develop a major illness I'm out of here.
If I have opportunity to be with someone better ...

C. The word “deny” is in the aorist tense. (he must deny himself, and take up ..)

1. Remember, the aorist tense indicates a completed action which stands
2. Deny is a good translation of “arneomai” also to “refuse” or “to repudiate.”
3. The repudiation of one's self is a way of life for the follower of Christ.

D. Whether it is formalized or not we all have goals for our life, a roadmap. S#18.

1. Before I denied self, my goal was to expand my hog business to 500 sows.
 - a. I had built up to about 15% of my goal and things were progressing according to plan until I became a disciple of Christ.
 - b. When it got to the point where I had to serve my goal or Jesus, **He won.**
2. Each of you had or have a goal for your life.
 - a. One has educational goals leading to professional goals.
 - b. Then marriage and family goals become the highest priority.
 - c. The 401K is the center of life for many folks ... a secure retirement.
3. Then along comes Christ and He says,
 - a. **Luke 9: 24** – For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. **25** For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?
 - b. Though it has happened, Jesus is not talking about a literal death, but a surrendering of one's life to the objectives of God, not to personal gain.

III. Jesus demands service, not just worship.**S#19.**

A. Jesus does not accept terms, His demands that each one of His followers (*disciples*) fully surrender their life to Him.

S#20.

1. **Luke 9: 23** – And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me

2. Every one of Jesus' listeners understood this better than we do.

a. They had seen people carry their cross and die on it.

b. Each convicted person was required to carry his cross.

3. Jesus was teaching that each saved person must commit His life to serving Him.

S#21.

B. Jesus understood that such a commitment would have financial repercussions.

1. **Luke 9: 24** – For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. **25** For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?

2. When one becomes a follower of Christ, it cuts into the time he serves himself.

a. Serving God is the Christian's full-time job, but he has the need to support himself.

b. The problem is that we tend to have the two reversed; we try to fit God in our life.

3. Jesus explains that serving Him is a good business decision.

a. In today's economy, one's average number of working years will be 45 to 50 yrs.

b. Eternity is un-ending ... more than 50K yrs.

c. 60 yrs of service is a small investment for 50K yrs of return.

IV. Jesus requires no more of us than He gave for us.**S#22.**

A. He sacrificed the splendor of Heaven to come to earth to save us.

S#23.

B. While on earth He lived and died in poverty.

S#24.**S#25.**

C. He suffered disdain, humiliation and the cruelest death men could contrive.

S#26.

D. He ascended back to Heaven in a human body, intercedes daily and will return.

S#27.

E. He asks only that you spend a few short years serving Him above yourself.

INVITATION :

If you surrender to Him, He will save your eternal soul.

S#28.

You will be saved by grace so you can serve Him with zeal and devotion.

Lesson Text :**Luke 9: 18-26**

18 And it happened that while He was praying alone, the disciples were with Him, and He questioned them, saying, "Who do the people say that I am?" **19** They answered and said, "John the Baptist, and others say Elijah; but others, that one of the prophets of old has risen again." **20** And He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" And Peter answered and said, "The Christ of God." **21** But He warned them and instructed them not to tell this to anyone, **22** saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed and be raised up on the third day."

23 And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it."

25 For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself? **26** For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. **27** But I say to you truthfully, there are some of those standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God."

Matthew 10: 32-39

32 Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. **33** But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.

34 Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. **35** For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; **36** and A MAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD.

37 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. **38** And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. **39** He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.